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DULLES' COMPARISON OF SOVIET AND AMERICAN ECONOMYBackground of the News, at 7:30 P.M. over WBBM (Chicago):

The speaker was Ralph Fisher, associate professor of history, University of Illinois.

FISHER: "A few days ago all papers carried a story on Allen Dulles, the Director of the CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. Mr. Dulles has appeared before a congressional committee. He had spoken of the striking progress of the Soviet economy during the last decade. He had said that Soviet industrial growth had been at the rate of eight or nine percent a year while our own had been about only half that rate. If this trend continued, he said, then by 1970 Soviet industrial output would be about three-fifths of ours and the gap between our two economies would be, in his words, 'dangerously narrowed.'

"Mr. Dulles also called attention to the weaker, non-industrial sectors of the Soviet economy but the press report stressed his words on industrial growth and this of course was in harmony with Mr. Dulles' purpose, which was to stimulate our own economy. There is, however, an unfortunate by-product of the kind of publicity that was given to Mr. Dulles' statement. This is that it re-enforces in the popular mind the notion cultivated so successfully by Soviet propaganda that the main aim of the Soviet system is to increase production. Karl Marx promised a century ago that under socialism there would be plenty of everything for everyone, and ever since then his Utopian vision has been one of the main attractions of Communism for the peoples of the world. Today especially in the under-developed countries there are many people who believe that the chief objective of the Soviets is economic development.

"Now, actually this is not their first aim. They give priority to control. They are not trying to build what we would call a healthy economy. Rather they are trying to build a totalitarian system and they are ready to sacrifice to that end both the physical prosperity and the moral health of their population.

"An illustration of this Soviet priority appeared in the Soviet press the same day Mr. Dulles made his report. The leading editorial in Pravda spoke in the usual militant terms of a nationwide competition for the early fulfillment of the seven-year plan in agriculture. It told of individual heroes like the young lady who decided on her own to fatten and to give to the state 1500 pigs, or the girl who vowed to send in to the state one million eggs. That editorial underscored the sad fact that agriculture has been a weak sector of the Soviet economy for 30 years and that the main reason is collectivization. The system of collectivization was ostensibly designed to foster more efficient farming. Actually its main motive was control. It was a means by which the Soviet regime could extract the maximum share of farm output for building a military and industrial machine. There is much evidence to suggest that as long as the Soviet regime continues to insist on collectivized farming it will not achieve its goal of economic development.